SECRETS OF 'THE RED ROAD'

MARTIN HENDERSON DOESN'T SHARE SPOILERS. PAGE 14

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Thursday, February 27, 2014 **www.metro.us | t: MetroNewYork | f: MetroNewYork**

ROOKIE COP SHOT

Recovery. Officer James Li is expected to make a full recovery after being shot in both legs while stopping a bus fare evader. **On the job.** Li and his partner have been police officers for less than two months. **Apprehended.** The suspect was caught and a gun was recovered. PAGE 02

Sick leave. Bill would extend benefits to more businesses PAGE 05

Dating. When your partner's not bananas about doing it PAGE 19

10th anniversary. Which 'Sex' eateries are still hot PAGE 22

NBA. Knicks plan to play Felton despite gun charges PAGE 31

ELECTRIC AVENUE

PAGE 02

Lauren Bahr walks Zeida over metal grates in Brooklyn. Stray voltage makes metal on city sidewalks dangerous for pedestrians and dogs in the winter. / BESS ADLER, METRO

1 NEWS

Top 3

What's trending online at Metro.us

1 "'Dunkin' Love" uses Dunkin' Donuts to spoof Beyonce's "Drunk in Love'"

2 'GIF: Pope Francis meets his "Mini-Me" in St. Peter's Square during Carnival'

3 'PHOTOS: Guy puts random household objects in his beard, quirky pictures go viral'

Quoted

"Have you seen Fort Greene Park in the morning? It's like the motherf—in' Westminster dog show."

Filmmaker Spike Lee talks Brooklyn gentrification at the Pratt Institute.

As winter frays wires, be wary of stray voltage

Shock. Pedestrians and pooches are more vulnerable to contact voltage in the winter.

Contact voltage on grates and other metal objects on city sidewalks can harm pets and pedestrians in the winter. Con Edison dispatches trucks to detect dangerous voltage. / BESS ADLER, METRO; INSET: CON EDISON

Earlier this month, Meghan Serrano was taking her 48-pound border collie mix, Georgie-Girl, for a morning walk on 2nd Avenue in the East Village when the dog let out a horrible sound.

"All of a sudden she jumped and screamed and fell down," Serrano said. "When she got up, she was limping and I had to carry her home."

Georgie-Girl had been unfortunate enough to come into contact with a phenomenon known as stray voltage, or Con Edison's preferred term, "contact voltage."

It occurs when poorly insulated cables leak power and electrify nearby objects — street signs, manhole covers, metal legs of park benches — and sometimes passersby and pooches in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Last week, an entire Chelsea block was shut down for several hours because of stray voltage. Earlier this month, an 11-year-old pit bull named Bella died after being electrocuted by a stray wire on the Lower East Side.

Though Georgie-Girl suffered no lasting damage, two other dogs had been shocked by the time Serrano was able to contact Con Edison, which sent a crew to block off the site. A repairman told her that her dog had been shocked by 29 watts of voltage caused by improperly grounded scaffolding at a nearby construction site.

"The number of reported shocks tends to climb whenever we have winters with a lot of snow and ice like we did this year," Con Edison spokesman Allan Drury said. "The reason is that the salt mixes with the snow and ice and corrodes the cables, and also conducts electricity."

In an effort to combat shocks from contact voltage before they even occur, the energy company keeps a fleet of trucks that roam the city at night with a sensor capable of detecting potentially dangerous voltage leaks.

"And when the truck gets a hit, we will stop and locate what is energized," Drury said. Con Edison will guard the area until a crew can make repairs.

Meanwhile, Serrano and Georgie-Girl will be navigating more carefully around the city — at least until the weather improves.

"We definitely avoid any scaffolding now," Serrano said.

EMILY JOHNSON
letters@metro.us

Stray voltage

Stray voltage or "contact voltage" occurs when poorly insulated cables leak power and electrify nearby objects.

- Reported shocks tend to climb during winters with more ice and snow.
- Con Edison helps detect dangerous voltage leaks with a fleet of trucks, which cover about 60,000 miles a year.
- Con Edison received 23 reports of shocks from its equipment in 2013.

Winter woes

"The salt mixes with the snow and ice and corrodes the cables, and also conducts electricity."
Drury

Brooklyn. Officer shot by fare evader: Cops

A rookie NYPD officer became the first cop shot on duty this year when he was hit in both legs Wednesday, officials said.

Officer James Li, 26, was shot in the parking lot of a Brooklyn White Castle around 5 p.m. after he and another rookie cop witnessed two men entering a B46 bus through the back door.

According to police, one of the suspects fired at the officers after the cops pulled the fare evaders from the bus.

The alleged shooter, Rashaun Robertson, was arrested inside a nearby building. A Smith & Wesson .45-caliber handgun was found at the scene, and police said ballistics tests matched the gun with shell casings at the scene. **ANNA SANDERS**

City Council

Bill would have city warn of red light cameras

Staten Island Councilman Vincent Ignizio introduced a new bill Wednesday that would post warnings for drivers at intersections where there are red light cameras overhead.

The city has 150 currently undisclosed intersections equipped with the cameras.

"If red light cameras are just about traffic safety, and not just about generating revenue, then we should give motorists every opportunity to make the right decision and slow down at these intersections," Ignizio said.

Another bill would require the installation of pedestrian countdown clocks near all red light cameras.

The red light system is part of a statewide pilot program set to expire this year.

Red light cameras in the city
GETTY IMAGES

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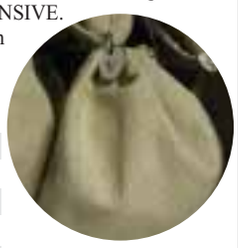

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Gov. Andrew Cuomo welcomed Marvel Comics to New York, where a live-action series based on the Defenders will film. / OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Superheroes flying into the Empire State

Fantastic. The city will serve as the primary filming location for a new Marvel live-action TV series.

Live-action series

Filming of the series will begin in the summer.

- Four Marvel Defenders characters will be the series focus: Daredevil, Jessica Jones, Luke Cage and Iron Fist.
- The shows will culminate with a miniseries also shot in New York.
- The project will bring the characters to Netflix in 2015, beginning with Daredevil.

Superheroes will be swooping into Midtown this summer.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced on Wednesday that the state will play host to four live-action series based on Marvel Comics.

Focused on a cast of characters jointly called the Defenders, the series will showcase street-level Daredevil, Jessica Jones, Luke Cage and Iron Fist in and around Manhattan's Hell's Kitchen.

"It is a very, very big deal," Cuomo said. "It's also very cool — especially for a guy like me who deals with what he deals with all day long. To be in the world of superheroes is pretty cool."

It's a sweet deal for the state too. Walt Disney Co., Marvel Comics' parent company, expects to drop around $200 million over the span of three years to film the series, which will air on Netflix.

The project is expected to yield 400 full-time jobs and 3,000 part-time production jobs.

"It is an entirely new business line for the state, if you will," Cuomo said. "And it's going extraordinarily well."

Walt Disney Company chief Robert Iger agreed, attributing the decision to film in New York to the governor's state tax credits, reportedly estimated at $4 million.

"There was actually pretty fierce competition among several different locations in the world," Iger said.

Cuomo called the competition "ferocious" but said the state's incentives have resulted in a net gain for New York.

Super

"To be in the world of superheroes is pretty cool."

Cuomo

By the numbers

3K

At least 3,000 industry jobs will be generated in New York because of the project.

The governor's office reported that the state received submissions for 183 film productions last year, generating some $2.11 billion worth of business in exchange for a projected $477 million in credits.

During the announcement, Cuomo — a Queens native — gave the Disney heads some notes for a future deal.

"There's a sequel here — I can see it," Cuomo joked. "'Boy from Queens' goes to Albany to fight the evil empire and bring justice to the people of the state."

CHESTER JESUS SORIA
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Passed. Paid sick leave expansion clears City Council

The City Council overwhelmingly approved a new bill on Wednesday that secures paid sick leave for an additional 355,000 working New Yorkers.

"It's time for our laws to live up to our values," Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito said. "No one should have to choose between their job and their health."

Forty-six members voted for the law while five were opposed. But even those who said they supported the law offered caveats about the bill's side effects on business owners.

Most members agreed employees across the city need paid sick time, however; they also expressed concern for the law's impact on the city's small businesses.

Queens Councilman Eric Ulrich, a Republican who voted for the previous Council's negotiated version, urged his colleagues to vote according to their conscience — doubts and all.

"If you believe that this is a bad bill and that this is a job-killing piece of legislation, then I'm urging you to join me in voting no," said Ulrich, who opposed the bill.

Last month, Mayor Bill de Blasio stood with many Council members on a Brooklyn sidewalk to announce the new administration's commitment to an expanded paid sick leave bill.

It will be the first law passed by the new mayor. **CHESTER JESUS SORIA**

Bill breakdown

After it is signed by the mayor, the expansion will go into effect April 1.

- The law requires businesses with five or more employees to offer workers up to five paid sick days a year.
- About 355,000 more workers will be covered by the expansion, with 1.2 million total workers eligible.

'Avatar' star in court

Actor Sam Worthington, 37, appeared in Manhattan Criminal Court Wednesday after police said he hit a photographer who had kicked his girlfriend's shin on Sunday night. Worthington was ordered to stay away from the photographer and charged with assault and other offenses. He is due back in court May 8.

RAYMOND HALL, GC IMAGES, GETTY IMAGES

Statewide

Relief from SNAP cuts

New York state will make up for about $457 million in recent federal cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, saving benefits for some 300,000 families, officials announced late Tuesday. **CHESTER JESUS SORIA**

In Queens

Man sought for string of sexual assaults at park

Police are looking for a man they believe is responsible for six sexual assaults at a Queens park since March 2011.

The most recent incident occurred Aug. 26 of last year, when police said the man raped a 69-year-old woman in Forest Park.

The suspect / DCPI

Police said they connected the rape with three attempted rapes and two forcible touching incidents at the same park.

The suspect was described as white, 30 to 40 years old, around 5-foot-9 with light brown hair. Call 800-577-TIPS with information. **ANNA SANDERS**

Legal. 'Michael's Law' would add expanded definition of hazing

After a Baruch College freshman died during a hazing incident in December, new legislation seeks to prohibit all physical contact during fraternity initiation ceremonies.

Assemblyman David Weprin began working on "Michael's Law" within weeks after the fatal incident, when 19-year-old Chun Michael Deng of Queens was killed during a trip to Pennsylvania with his new Pi Delta Psi brothers.

The bill, introduced with state Sen. Kenneth LaValle, would expand the definition of hazing to include "all physical conduct and physical activities required from fraternities during the pledging ceremonies," according to a press release.

The current law defines hazing as any activity that creates "a substantial risk of physical injury." **EMILY JOHNSON**

In the Bronx

Strip club may become church

Hunts Point's last strip club has shut its doors and a local pastor wants to turn it into a church.

"It's a great redemption story in a place that has been notoriously known for many years for sex trafficking and prostitution," said Rev. Reggie Stutzman of Real Life Church. He launched a grassroots funding effort to afford the lease. **EMILY JOHNSON**

'Humans of New York' sparks library debate

The "Humans of New York" photo was shared more than 50,000 times on Facebook. / COURTESY OF BRANDON STANTON, HUMANS OF NEW YORK

Share. A blog post has the New York Public Library on the defensive.

The New York Public Library defended itself on Tuesday after a recent post on the popular street photography blog "Humans of New York" sparked a backlash against plans to renovate the 42nd Street branch.

The image was accompanied by a quote from the subject, who identified himself on Twitter as Matthew Zadrozny. In the caption, he called the branch his "favorite place in the world" and shared his disappointment with upcoming renovations he believed would diminish the library's research collection.

Photo subject

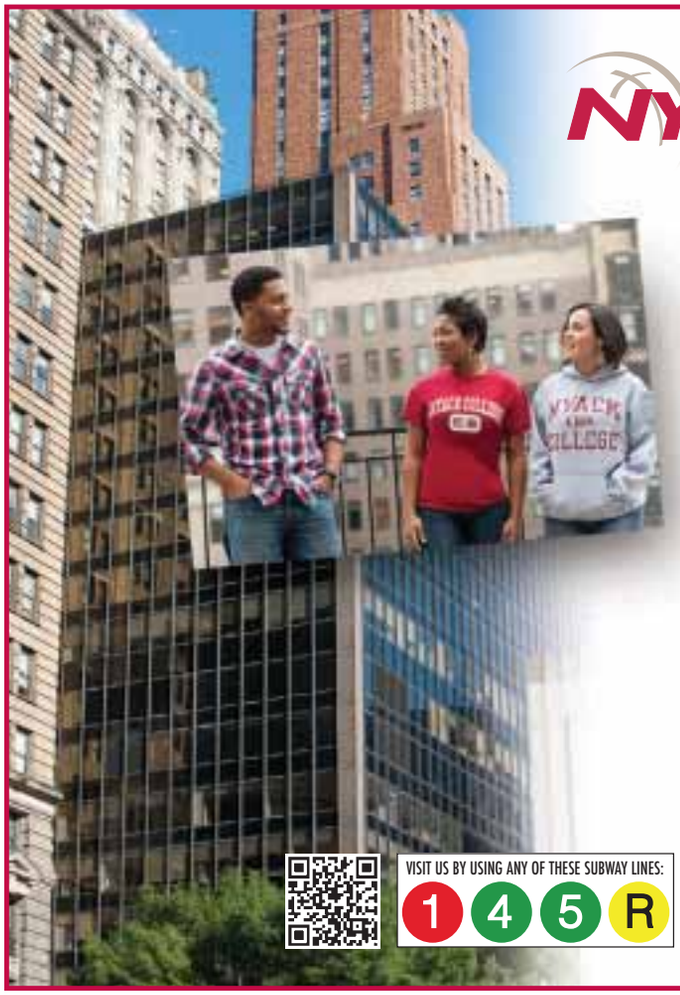
"When everything is finished, one of the greatest research libraries in the world will become a glorified Internet cafe." Zadrozny

The photo reinvigorated the Save the 42nd Street Library movement and touched off such a debate that the library felt compelled to respond.

An NYPL spokesperson told "Humans of New York" photographer Brandon Stanton in a statement, which he shared on the page, that the majority of research books will remain at the branch.

Stanton encouraged his followers to read up on the debate.

EMILY JOHNSON
letters@metro.us



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Google ordered to remove anti-Islamic film from YouTube

Belief. For many Muslims, any depiction of the prophet is considered blasphemous.

The film depicts the Prophet Mohammed as a fool and a sexual deviant. / YOUTUBE

A U.S. appeals court on Wednesday ordered Google Inc., to remove from its YouTube website an anti-Islamic film that had sparked protests across the Muslim world.

By a 2-1 vote, a panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Wednesday rejected Google's assertion that the removal of the film "Innocence of Muslims," amounted to a prior restraint of speech that violated the U.S. Constitution.

The plaintiff, Cindy Lee Garcia, had objected to the film after learning that it incorporated a clip she had made for a different movie, which had been partially dubbed and in which she appeared to be asking: "Is your Mohammed a child molester?"

Cris Armenta, a lawyer for Garcia, said she is delighted with the decision.

The controversial film, billed as a film trailer, sparked a torrent of anti-American unrest among Muslims in Egypt, Libya and other countries in 2012.

That outbreak coincided with an attack on U.S. diplomatic facilities in Benghazi that killed four Americans. **REUTERS**

Quoted

"Ordering YouTube and Google to take down the film was the right thing to do."

Armenta said in an email

Source: Feds investigate Bitcoin businesses

Manhattan U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara's office is seeking information from businesses dealing in Bitcoin on how some of them handled cyber-attacks that hamstrung several exchanges in recent weeks, a source familiar with the probe said on Wednesday. Subpoenas have been sent to numerous businesses, including Mt. Gox, once the largest Bitcoin exchange, as well as other firms that did business with the company. Prosecutors want to know more about the nature of the cyber-attacks on Mt. Gox and other exchanges and how those exchanges dealt with them. **REUTERS** / GETTY IMAGES

Closings

Sony to shutter 20 retail stores in the US

Sony Corp.'s electronic unit said on Wednesday it is closing 20 retail stores in the United States and cutting 1,000 jobs, as the TV and game console maker tries to stem losses and regain market share.

Sony has 31 retail stores in the U.S.

The job cuts are part of a previously announced reduction of 5,000 positions globally, or just over 3 percent of its staff, and fall under a much larger reorganization that includes spinning off Sony's TV operations.

"While these moves were extremely tough, they were absolutely necessary to position us in the best possible place for future growth," Mike Fasulo, president and chief operating officer of Sony Electronics, said in a statement. **REUTERS**

Obama shows plan to fix nation's crumbling roads, infrastructure

Obama's plan would fill the gap in the Highway Trust Fund and also invest an additional $90 billion in infrastructure projects. / GETTY IMAGES

GOP. Boehner said a bailout for the highway fund would likely be out of the question.

President Barack Obama on Wednesday announced a $302 billion plan to fix the nation's crumbling roads and bridges, but the proposal, which relies on tax reform for funding, is not expected to gain traction in Congress.

Congress faces a Sept. 30 deadline to renew federal funding for transportation programs, and the Highway Trust Fund that helps pay for road and bridge projects is teetering on insolvency, making it difficult for state governors to plan projects that typically run through September and into the fall.

"Meeting with the president [Tuesday,] this is one of the issues that was discussed. We've got to find a funding mechanism to fund our infrastructure needs," Boehner said.

"I wish I could report to you that we've found it, but we haven't."

Even Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer, head of the committee that oversees work on the highway bill, said on Wednesday that Obama's plan was not likely to pass Congress.

"I think it's good, but I don't hold out hope for it," Boxer told a conference of state transportation officials in Washington.

But Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx told reporters traveling with Obama that it was important for all sides to start talking about how to avert what he called a transportation funding "cliff."

"There will be voices that say one thing or another can't get done," Foxx said. "I think the most important thing is that the ideas need to be put on the table." **REUTERS**

By the numbers

$150B

Obama's four-year plan relies on revenues raised by ending some tax breaks to free up $150 billion for transportation. That would only happen through corporate tax reform, a political long shot.

Survey. Majority of Americans now support gay marriage

Support for gay marriage has surged in the United States in the decade since it first became legal in Massachusetts, with just over half of Americans now supporting the idea, according to a survey released on Wednesday.

The survey on attitudes toward lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people comes as U.S. lawmakers and courts are increasingly allowing same-sex couples to wed.

GAY MARRIAGE
GETTY IMAGES

Some 53 percent of the 4,509 Americans surveyed by the Public Religion Research Institute said they supported gay marriage, up from 32 percent in 2003, when Massachusetts became the first state to legalize it.

PRRI Chief Executive Robert Jones said the poll joined a raft of other surveys showing that a majority of Americans back gay marriage. **REUTERS**

Student loans

US consumer bureau sues college chain ITT

The consumer watchdog said on Wednesday it has sued ITT Educational Services Inc. for what the agency says are predatory student lending practices that could lead borrowers to default on their loans. The U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau said the Indiana-based for-profit college chain exploited students and pushed them into "high-cost private loans" that leave them strapped with debt.

The agency, in a complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Indianapolis, Ind., said it is seeking restitution for victims, a civil fine and an injunction against the company.

Shares of ITT slumped 8.6 percent on Wednesday to $32.56. **REUTERS**

Quoted

"Today's action should serve as a warning to the for-profit college industry that we will be vigilant about protecting students against predatory lending tactics."

Richard Cordray
CFPB Director

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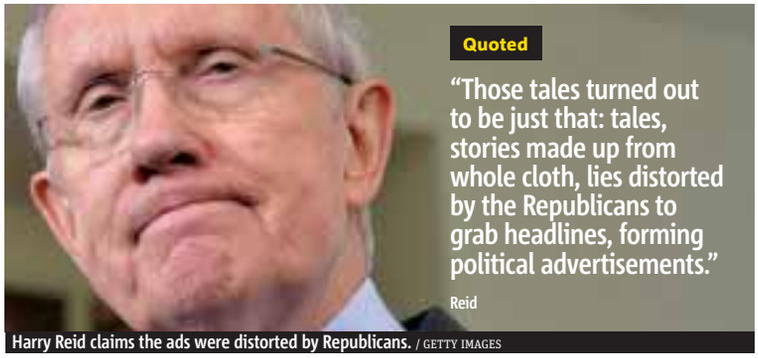
Senate leader Reid blasts Koch brothers over Obamacare ads



Quoted

"Those tales turned out to be just that: tales, stories made up from whole cloth, lies distorted by the Republicans to grab headlines, forming political advertisements."

Reid

Harry Reid claims the ads were distorted by Republicans. / GETTY IMAGES

Wealthy. They have used their fortune to fund numerous conservative causes.

U.S. Senate majority leader Democrat Harry Reid on Wednesday accused the billionaire Koch brothers of spreading "horror stories" about President Barack Obama's health care law, in the latest salvo in the election-year debate over Obamacare.

Reid blasted ads by Americans for Prosperity, a political advocacy group backed by David and Charles Koch. The ads feature patients discussing insurance costs.

The Nevada Democrat in particular denounced a television ad featuring a leukemia patient who said she would die without medication and blamed the cancellation of her previous policy. Another ad showed a woman who said her policy costs rose by $700 a month. The ad scored "two Pinocchios" out of a possible four by the Washington Post's Glenn Kessler, who said the commercial did not give a full accounting comparing the patients' old plans with new ones. REUTERS

Response

Koch Industries Inc, the brothers' oil and gas conglomerate, fired back in a statement saying the Koch brothers were not responsible for the ad and calling Reid's remarks "disgraceful."

Trade secrets

FDA spying may have broken whistleblower law

The Food and Drug Administration exceeded its authority when it set up a surveillance program to monitor employees in its medical device division who it suspected of leaking trade secrets, two prominent Republican lawmakers said on Wednesday. The charge was made in a report released by Rep. Darrell Issa, chairman of the House oversight panel, and Sen. Chuck Grassley, the ranking Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee. It followed a two-year investigation initiated after The New York Times reported on the surveillance in 2012. REUTERS

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Young women chant the Ukrainian national anthem. / GETTY IMAGES

Alarm in Ukraine as Putin puts Russian troops on alert

Just a drill? Russia flexes its muscles as Ukraine's Crimea region rallies for independence.

President Vladimir Putin put 150,000 Russian combat troops on high alert for war games near Ukraine on Wednesday, the Kremlin's boldest gesture yet after days of saber rattling since its ally Viktor Yanukovich was toppled as president in Kiev.

Moscow denied that the previously unannounced drill in the western military district near Ukraine was linked to events in its neighbor, but it came amid a series of increasingly strident statements about the fate of Russian interests.

With the political turmoil hammering Ukraine's economy, the central bank said it would no longer intervene to shield the hyrvnia currency.

Wednesday's abrupt abandonment of Ukraine's currency peg sent ripples to Russia where the rouble sank to five-year lows and bank shares also fell.

NATO defense ministers, meeting in Brussels, issued a statement supporting "Ukrainian sovereignty and independence, territorial integrity, democratic development, and the principle of inviolability of frontiers." Their statement made no direct mention of the Russian war games.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said Russia should respect the territorial integrity of Ukraine and be "very careful" in its judgments toward its neighbor.

Russia's foreign ministry said Ukrainian extremists were "imposing their will." REUTERS

Crimea crisis

Thousands of ethnic Russians, who form the majority in the Crimea region, demonstrated for independence.

- They scuffled with rival demonstrators supporting the new Kiev authorities. The Crimea is home to part of Russia's Black Sea Fleet, which Moscow said it was taking steps to secure.
- One person died in the Crimea protest, apparently of a heart attack during a crush of the crowd, the Interfax news agency reported. A Reuters correspondent on the scene reported surging crowds and scuffles but no major violence.

Quoted

"What we need now to do is not get into an old, Cold War confrontation."

John Kerry
U.S. secretary of state

By the numbers

4%

The hyrvnia currency tumbled 4 percent on Wednesday and is now down a fifth since Jan. 1.

Mail malfunction

Thousands called to job office by mistake

Police dispersed an angry crowd of job-seekers outside an employment office in Stockholm on Wednesday after 61,000 people were summoned for a recruitment meeting by mistake.

An email call for a recruitment meeting that should have gone out to about 1,000 job-seekers went out to considerably more people, about 61,000 — apparently all the registered job seekers in Stockholm, police said. Hundreds of people expecting to attend crowded into the alley where the labor office is located and spilled into the adjacent street. REUTERS

FIFA foes

Hackers target World Cup

Brazilian hackers are threatening to disrupt the World Cup with attacks ranging from jamming websites to data theft, adding cyber warfare to the list of challenges for a competition already marred by protests, delays and overspending.

In a country with rampant online crime and little experience with cyberattacks, authorities are rushing to protect government websites and those of FIFA, soccer's governing body. REUTERS

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Discovery. Couple finds $10 million in buried treasure

A trove of rare Gold Rush-era coins unearthed in California last year by a couple as they walked their dog may be the greatest buried treasure ever found in the United States, worth more than $10 million, a currency firm representing the pair said on Tuesday.

The 1,400 gold pieces, dating to the mid- to late 1800s and still in nearly mint condition, were discovered buried in eight decaying metal cans on the couple's land last April, said coin expert David McCarthy of currency firm Kagin's.

"We've seen shipwrecks in the past where thousands of gold coins were found in very high grade, but a buried treasure of this sort is unheard of," McCarthy said. "I've never seen this face value in North America and you never see coins in the condition we have here."

Gold rush

Also unclear is who hid the gold pieces, which were minted between 1847 and 1894, in a variety of 19th-century metal cans on land that eventually became part of the couple's yard.

Kagin's has declined to identify the couple, who according to the firm want to remain anonymous for fear treasure hunters will descend on their property in Northern California's so-called Gold Country, named after the state's 1849 Gold Rush.

The couple had been walking their dog when they came across a rusty metal can sticking out of the ground and dug it out. After finding gold coins inside they searched further and found the rest of the cache. **REUTERS**

Converts who hacked soldier to death jailed for life

Two British Muslim converts were sentenced to life in prison on Wednesday for hacking a soldier to death on a London street in broad daylight, a gruesome killing that horrified the nation and provoked an anti-Islamic backlash. Michael Adebolajo, 29, and Michael Adebowale, 22, were convicted by a jury in December of murdering off-duty soldier Lee Rigby, a 25-year-old Afghan war veteran in Woolwich, southeast London, in May last year. Adebolajo received a whole-life term while Adebowale was told he would serve a minimum period of 45 years. REUTERS / GETTY IMAGES

Stepping down from the See

Ex-pope denies he was forced to resign

Former Pope Benedict, in one of the few times he has broken his silence since stepping down nearly a year ago, has branded as "absurd" fresh media speculation that he was forced to quit.

Church law says a pope's resignation is valid only if he takes the decision in full freedom and without pressure from others.

"There is absolutely no doubt regarding the validity of my resignation from the Petrine ministry," Benedict, 86, who now has the title "pope emeritus," said in a letter to the Italian website Vatican Insider published on Wednesday.

"The only condition for the validity of my resignation is the complete freedom of my decision. Speculation regarding its validity is simple absurd," he wrote. **REUTERS**

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Cha-cha-cha changes for Kate Hudson

Kate Hudson? Is that you? The actress looked a bit — um, how do I put this delicately? — "facially stretched" in West Hollywood on Tuesday at Bvlgari's Decades of Glamour pre-Oscar party (the blonde next to her is, of course, Naomi Watts). Hudson is battling breakup rumors with fiance Matt Bellamy, with whom she has a son. "Matt is pretty down-to-earth and happy in England, while Kate is very L.A.-focused," a source recently told the New York Daily News. "They are leading separate lives. It hasn't been working out the way they planned and they've been trying very hard for the sake of their son." While a rep for the 34-year-old daughter of Goldie Hawn denies the rumors of trouble, she and Bellamy have not been spotted together in months.

Kate Hudson and Naomi Watts smile on Tuesday in California.
ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

The Muppets take on Instagram

Although it's just a clever (and cute) marketing campaign for their new movie, "Muppets Most Wanted," we're still in love with all of the "selfies" the Muppets are posting on their Instagram account. This one, by Dr. Bunsen Honeydew, came with the caption "#Selfies are scientifically proven to boost health and happiness!" Er, especially those posted by Kim Kardashian.

THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson takes on the world of gossip.

DOROTHY ROBINSON
@dorothyatmetro
dorothy.robinson@metro.us

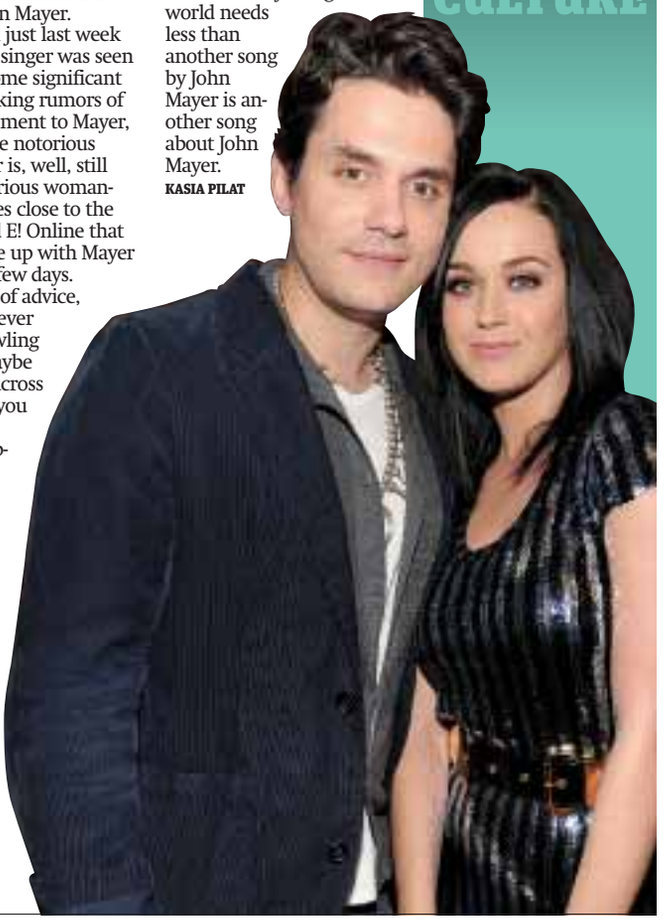
Perry and Mayer are no more (apparently)

Katy Perry, wherever you are (read: likely frolicking around your L.A. mansion in a getup only Willy Wonka's fever dreams could have spawned), we hope you're happy. You should be, because you've finally rid yourself, hopefully for good, of that life-sucker named John Mayer.

Though just last week the "Roar" singer was seen sporting some significant bling, sparking rumors of her engagement to Mayer, it seems the notorious womanizer is, well, still just a notorious womanizer. Sources close to the couple told E! Online that Perry broke up with Mayer in the last few days.

A word of advice, Katy: If he ever comes crawling back — maybe he comes across footage of you and Miley Cyrus swapping spit during her "Bangerz" tour and wants in on the action — you just take a deep breath and "Roar" right in his face. Let him know that "Who You Love" is not John "Date-and-Dash" Mayer. Also, don't write a sad breakup song about him. The only thing the world needs less than another song by John Mayer is another song about John Mayer.

KASIA PILAT



Drama. The actor jumps to TV for the Sundance series "The Red Road."

Martin Henderson calls us from northern Italy to chat about his new Sundance drama "The Red Road" — a far cry from the dark and moody New Jersey setting where the show takes place.

The New Zealand-born actor stars as Harold Jensen, a police officer in the fictional town of Walpole, New Jersey, where there's a cultural clash taking place between the indigenous Lenape tribe members and the town's white residents. A local college student's disappearance sets into motion a story of secrets, lies and questionable allegiances.

Henderson says that now's an "exciting time" to be joining a TV show, especially one on cable.

"You can develop these characters that people really love," he says. "You can follow them on their journey and see what's going to happen to them in a myriad of different situations that you couldn't explore in a film."

Sundance has gained critical acclaim with original series like "Top of the Lake" and "Rectify." Henderson says he hadn't yet seen "Rectify" when he got the pilot script for "The Red Road," but that signing on was "a no-brainer."

"I read it and it had a unique voice," he says. "It [has a] very haunting series-quality to it."

The actor was also drawn to the fact that his character is a real person with flaws.

"I can't say that I'm playing the good or the bad guy. I play a man with faults and who has secrets he wants and needs to protect. … He's juggling two, three or four balls in the air and it's interesting to see if it's all going to come tumbling down."

Henderson is coy when we ask him more about how his character's actions are going to play out.

"[Showrunner Aaron Guzikowski] is leaving the characters on the opposite end of where they began. … It's left very open-ended. By the end of the season you're not really sure who is who."

See more at www.metro.us

MARTIN HENDERSON: SEEING 'RED'

Martin Henderson stars in "The Red Road," premiering tonight at 9 on Sundance. / JAMES MINCHIN, SUNDANCETV

I know that guy

Where else you've seen him

Opposite Naomi Watts in "The Ring": The actor still gets recognized for his role in the 2002 scary movie.

"Among horror fans, this film is really popular. I'm really proud of it. It's one of the first movies I made in America."

As Britney Spears' love interest in her "Toxic" music video: Maybe he'll catch her show in Vegas?

"I've never seen her live; I'm sure it's a good show. I should give her a call."

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TV watch list

It's Leslie and Ben! They've been together for one year! / NBC UNIVERSAL

COMEDY

'Parks and Recreation'

Ben and Leslie celebrate their one-year anniversary while the staff discusses Pawnee's merger with Eagleton.

8:30 P.M., NBC

TALK

'The Colbert Report'

Jeff Goldblum discusses his role in Wes Anderson's "The Grand Budapest Hotel." Goldblum has been hilarious lately with cameos on "Portlandia."

11:30 P.M., COMEDY CENTRAL

REALITY

'American Idol'

One contestant will be voted off tonight as "Idol" welcomes back Season 12 winner Candice Glover and rising star, singer-songwriter Jake Bugg. **8 P.M., FOX**

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Metro rounds up what's in cinemas this week.

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See more at www.metro.us

What you'll see

'Non-Stop'

1 Charles Bronson was still making "Death Wish" pictures at 73, so Liam Neeson still has another 12 years to make movies like "Non-Stop." Or he could do some prestige films. This time he's an alkie air marshal who finds there's a killer on his latest flight.

Look! Before "12 Years a Slave" came out, Oscar nominee Lupita Nyong'o filmed a tiny role in "Non-Stop." / MYLES ARONOWITZ

2 'Son of God'
Lots and lots of people watched the miniseries "The Bible," so hopefully they won't mind shelling out cash to watch the Jesus part of it, only now with what we're promised is extra footage.

3 'Stalingrad'
If you liked watching the destruction of a town-city in "Pompeii," you'll love this recreation of the WWII battle, in which the Soviets squared off against the Nazis — a bloody tussle rendered in IMAX 3-D with lots of arterial spray squirting at your face.

4 'Bag Man'
Once upon a time this thriller starring John Cusack as a mafia stooge would have gotten a decent budget and a wide release. Instead it's a low-budget number that's slipped into theaters, even though it also features Robert De Niro in silly glasses.

5 'Odd Thomas'
Here's another fallen idol: Stephen Sommers used to direct monstrosities like two "Mummy" movies and "Van Helsing." Now he's doing a small horror-comedy cribbed from a Dean Koontz novel about a clairvoyant short-order cook (Anton Yelchin).

6 'Repentance'
An all-star cast headlines this horror-thriller about a "spiritual adviser" (Anthony Mackie) kidnapped by a troubled man (Forest Whitaker). Sanaa Lathan and Mike Epps co-star.

7 '3 Days to Kill'
Kevin Costner used to be the biggest star in the world. After ages doing ace supporting work, he's starring in everything this year, starting with this action-drama about a dying assassin trying to reconnect with his daughter (Hailee Steinfeld).

Jesus (Diogo Morgado) gets his latest splashy movie with "Son of God." / CASEY CRAFFORD

8 'Pompeii'
Spoiler: Mount Vesuvius erupts and wipes out everyone on the island of Pompeii. Before that happens, there's some Roman intrigue to be had, some of it involving a "Gladiator" knockoff starring a "Game of Thrones" stud.

9 'The Wind Rises'
Legendary Japanese animator Hayao Miyazaki ("My Neighbor Totoro," "Spirited Away") once claimed this study of a man who designed WWII fighter planes was his retirement film. Then he said he wasn't retiring. We're not sure whether he means it, but you should still see this.

10 'The Lego Movie'
If the idea of a movie based on the plastic toy blocks seems inexplicable, at least someone was passionate enough to hire talented "21 Jump Street" guys Phil Lord and Chris Miller to do it.

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FOREST WHITAKER

The Oscar-winning actor talks about playing unhinged and torturing other actors in "Repentance."

LETTING LOOSE

In "Repentance," Forest Whitaker plays a tormented, mentally unhinged man who goes off his meds and follows the instructions of a psychic and the specter of his dead mother to track down the man responsible for her death. As if that wasn't a tall enough order, the Oscar winner was also being directed by Philippe Caland, who played the same role in an earlier, smaller version of the film. No pressure, right?

How was the experience of being directed by someone who previously played the same role you're playing?
I thought it was one of his better performances, too. He was really good in it. I didn't really think about it much, to be honest. [It was more about the effort] to create the structure around it and to be there for him as a friend and as an artist and as a producer in what's really a much more constrained environment, much different than the films he's done in the past — and actually a larger budget than the films he's done in the past.

How is it, as an actor, performing scenes opposite people who are all tied up?
It was wild doing that scene. Especially with Anthony [Mackie] too, because he went through a lot. Being tied up, being wrapped up, being suffocated, having water thrown all over him — it was a strange experience. I actually kind of surrendered to it, so I lived in it.

Quoted

"I just kind of lived in the reality of the fact that I tied these people up, you know what I mean?"

Whitaker, on playing a violent character

I just kind of lived in the reality of the fact that I tied these people up, you know what I mean? I needed him to answer me, so I used violence. I tortured him.

How much do you worry about maintaining audience sympathy?
You start questioning yourself, right? I think you do care about him because his motivation is that he loves his mom, who he lost. His mom was taken away and it was wrong. And he really cares about his wife — you see how desperately he wants to be with her — and he's taking care of this little girl. You can't help but care about him, because those are human things, you know? But I think as it goes on you do have to ask the question: Is violence OK? And I think ultimately, no matter what his motivations were, the acts that he did are wrong. You could find sympathy, hopefully, with this man who is struggling with his own sanity, who lost his mom, wishes his wife would forgive him. But in the end that question comes to bear: Is violence OK? And I say, "No."

NED EHRBAR
ned.ehrbar@metro.lu

Another view

Do you view this in any way as a supernatural film?
I do. I don't necessarily believe that him seeing his mom is not true. I think certainly playing the character I had to believe it was true. Certainly as an actor it's real. You know, you'd say, "Oh, this man is mad" any other time in his life other than now.

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DONNA KARAN
ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

High heels and expensive furs

In her shoes. "It" girl Chelsea Leyland gives us an up-close look at Fashion Month.

Imagine spinning your favorite tracks for a living, calling New York and London home and counting Anna Wintour's jewelry designer as one of your nearest and dearest. For DJ Chelsea Leyland, that's life — working the Fashion Month show circuit, scoring enviable front-row seats and partying with the best. We caught up with the British-raised New Yorker who told us all about life in the fast (and well-dressed) lane.

The NYC circuit

Which was your favorite NY show?

In terms of epic-ness, I would say Donna Karan because it was her [anniversary] show. But in terms of my favorite collection, it would be Suno. That was so pretty.

How did you tackle the 'polar vortex' weather?
It was challenging. I was lucky enough to have a car because otherwise I would have needed shoes and snow boots at the ready. It was funny though, my friends can't believe it when I tell them there were people walking into shows in their nice designer heels after jumping over big heaps of snow. It definitely made it a fun one.

As you're traveling, do you have to strategically plan all of your Fashion Week outfits in advance?
Not really. I seriously don't know how those people plan their looks to a tee. I tend to wear a piece of clothing that's from the designer who's showing. I do get a lot of nice clothes gifted and I pull clothes from PR showrooms, as well as doing a bit of shopping before Fashion Month.

How do you keep track?
I put up a big rail in my apartment and work from that. My house at the moment looks like some kind of shopping outlet. There are garment bags, hangers and clothes everywhere. It's my cat's idea of heaven — he likes to think it's a climbing frame.

Gosh, don't tell the publicists that.
Especially all these furs that I've had to sign waivers for! They're so expensive that they make you sign something in case you lose or ruin them.

ALICE TATE
letters@metro.us

Trending. Long live the '60s

The '60s were an exceptional era for fashion: We finally got over our objection to exposed knees, PVC became a wardrobe regular and the Beatles inspired men to wear Cuban-heeled boots. So naturally, it's a decade that is often looked back on through glasses that need no rose tinting. From New York to Milan, it seems everyone is feeling nostalgic this season and channeling the spirit of Mary Quant.

You've got swinging A-line dresses and shifts, dusted with Austin Powers-style decadence at DSquared2; Julie Christie doppelgangers in jewel-toned miniskirts and lace-up go-go boots at Versace and Jean Shrimpton look-alikes at Gucci, dressed in peacoats and a multitude of shaggy and silky furs.

Those furs also popped up at Topshop Unique (as well as at Eudon Choi) in a retro spectrum of browns. Elsewhere, nostalgia filled the air at Burberry, with wafting bohemian dresses reminiscent of the '70s. Prada showed a similarly modish side of the era with its array of geometric patterns in royal purples and grassy greens. No doubt we'll be seeing quite a few groovy gals on the street come fall. KIT GILBERT

DSquared2
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TIPS FOR A LAGGING LIBIDO

The question

I'm writing because I am unhappy with my sexual relationship with my girlfriend of more than two years. I care for her deeply and am very attracted to her. I am concerned that she doesn't really want to have sex much at all. We recently went three weeks without having sex and, when I mentioned this, she insisted it hadn't been that long. She's also extremely fussy and only seems to like it when it is gentle. On top of this, I have never seen her masturbate in our two years. Not once. Though she tells me she does this in private, I have asked, nicely, repeatedly, to be included in this as I include her in mine. But she says that it's private and that "not everyone can do what you can do," meaning masturbate in front of their partner. I've tried to talk about these issues with her many times. Regarding the amount of sex we have, she claims men just want it more and a relationship isn't about "nookie on demand." I agree with her, to a point. But I think something deeper is going on here and I don't know what to do about it. Any advice or thoughts you have would be welcome.

Your irritation is justified: She's your girlfriend. Shouldn't regular sex be part of the deal? Here's the hard part, my love. Her frustration is equally warranted. She has shared a truth that may be hard for you to accept: Her sexual desire isn't as strong or kinky as you would like it to be.

Libidos are the result of individualized biological, physiological and social factors as well as personal preferences. While an exact match isn't required for a healthy relationship, it can be wearying to share a mattress with an ill-fitted counterpart. Don't be discouraged.

Manage your expectations

This sitch could be one of to-MAY-to/to-MAH-to. Sex aside, it sounds like you both enjoy and want to remain in the relationship.

Funky Brown Chick

TWANNA A. HINES, M.S.

AWARD-WINNING EDUCATOR AND SEX COLUMNIST. FOLLOW HER ON TWITTER @FUNKYBROWNCHICK

Not bad. We often have unrealistic expectations when it comes to sex. If everything else is in check with this relationship, try one of the following workarounds.

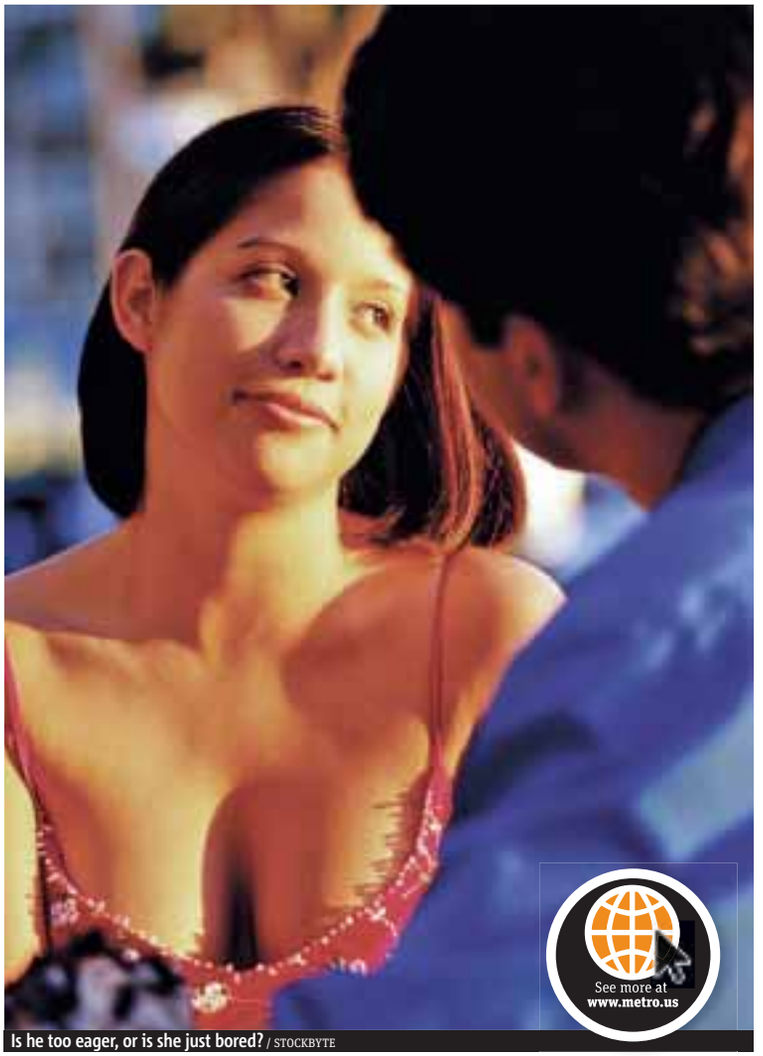
Bring her off the sidelines

So your girlfriend isn't "nookie on demand." Fine. That doesn't mean she isn't interested in you sexually. You mentioned she watches you at play. Great! If you're comfortable doing so, ask her to help you out. Remember: Desire doesn't have to include penetration.

Warm her up

Be reeeaaaally good to her — even more than you're undoubtedly being now. Massages. Gifts. Time. Whatever she likes. Don't do anything with ulterior motives set to bow-chicka-wow-wow theme songs. If you do she will likely sniff that out, and she would be justified getting angry because she has already told you to take it easy. The point is to warm her up so that she will initiate sex when she's ready.

If neither of you can agree to a workable solution, remember: People have broken up over much less.



Is he too eager, or is she just bored? / STOCKBYTE

No, seriously.

Sleep with someone else

Hold up — I am not advocating cheating on your partner. Books like "Sex at Dawn," "Mating in Captivity" and "Opening Up: A Guide to Creating and Sustaining Open Relationships" offer tons of advice for couples interested in exploring nonmonogamy. If you mutually agree you're totally compatible outside the bedroom but not inside, consider having a frank, adult conversation about exploring wider options if necessary.

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MAKE TIME FOR DATE NIGHT

Whether it's work, friends, kids or general responsibilities, life gets busy and schedules fill up. If you're in a long-term relationship, making time for date night likely isn't a top priority. But if you want to stay connected to your significant other, it should be. Here's why:

1 Quality, not quantity. Even if you live with your significant other and spend many hours with him or her during the week, it's not the same as quality time together. When you plop down in front of the TV after a long day, you're not really connecting. It's hard to muster the energy to explain what happened that day or talk about what's on your mind, but it's important to stay in touch about what's really going on.

2 Your partner deserves to see your best. The dressed-to-impress, socially engaged you is different from the you passing out over a plate of leftovers. The unpolished you at 30 percent battery power is fine to show, but you also want to show the trying-hard you — the one that attracted your partner in the first place. It's not realistic to always be "on," but it IS realistic to show your "on" side through regular date nights.

3 New experiences keep it fresh. Studies show that couples who engage in new and exciting activities together are happier than those who do not. An adventurous date is a great way to try something new and keep things spicy. (See sidebar.)

The Hookup

AMBER MADISON

AMBERMADISONONLINE.COM

Amber Madison is a nationally noted relationship expert and practicing therapist who lives in Manhattan. She is also the author of "Are All Guys Assholes?" for which she interviewed more than 1,000 guys and found the answer to this question is "no." Follow her @ambermadi on Twitter to get her latest advice.

A little effort goes a long way.
RON CHAPPLE STUDIOS

Extra tips

Beyond dinner and a movie

Need some exciting date ideas? Here are three from Danny Nathan, co-founder of Datenight.is, a new website with location-specific, interest-aware recommendations for unique date ideas.

1 A recipe for success: Take a cooking class.

2 Try rock climbing.

3 Sail away on a sunset cruise.

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VH1 orders 'Naked Dating'

See more at www.metro.us

Grin and bare it.
What you see is what you get in new show.

VH1 will air a reality series called "Naked Dating." / COLOURBOX

We all expose ourselves to some extent when we date new people, but VH1 will make daters bare all in a new TV show. The network has just ordered a reality series called "Naked Dating," according to the Hollywood Reporter.

Each of the 10 episodes will revolve around one man and one woman as they both meet two naked potential mates. The idea is that stripping clothes from the dates also strips away prejudices people may have based on clothing and appearances. At the end of the episode, the featured love-seekers will reflect on what they learned about themselves and their dates and decide if they want to keep seeing them.

The series will be filmed in a "remote exotic locale," according to the Hollywood Reporter. Lighthearted Entertainment, the production company behind the project, also produced "Extreme Makeover" and "Next." VH1 said the show will be edited in accordance with network standards.

Howard Schultz, president of Lighthearted Entertainment, told the Hollywood Reporter that the show is about focusing on the heart. "We created this show based on marrying a provocative idea with a back-to-basics philosophy. With all the dating options in the world, what happens if you take one man and woman and strip them of all their pretenses?" he said. "VH1 immediately understood our vision and is a fantastic partner on a show that uses a social experiment to provide a fun and entertaining look into how men and women interact when they bare all."

VH1 has not yet announced when the show will air.

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Cocktail of the Week

What the stars are drinking on Oscar night

After the awards are handed out, the celebs will head to the annual Governor's Ball to party the night away (after all, the Oscars only end around 8 p.m. L.A. time). They'll drink this Ciroc cocktail, which you can make at home. It's calorie-conscious, which is sure to please the stars triple-Spanxing it on the red carpet.

CÎROC Coco Light Martini

(127 calories)

1.5 oz. unsweetened coconut water
1.5 oz. CÎROC Coconut
1 oz. pineapple juice
.25 oz. fresh lime juice

Combine all ingredients in martini shaker with ice. Shake and strain into coupe glass. Garnish with lemon twist.

Food, sex and the city

Reminisce. It's been 10 years since we last saw Carrie, Miranda, Charlotte and Samantha on the small screen. Here are some of the restaurants the girls visited — and that you can still go to today.

Has it really been 10 years since the girls went off the air? / GETTY IMAGES

While Sarah Jessica Parker is staying busy with her new line of shoes, we couldn't help but wonder: What ever happened to some of Carrie and the girls' favorite hangouts? These spots are all still open — pay a visit and order a Cosmo!

Il Cantinori

32 E. 10th St.,
212-673-6044
So Carrie didn't actually get to taste the food in this Italian restaurant, since she left the place because all her friends were late for her 35th birthday. But that doesn't mean you shouldn't try it. Don't be surprised if you spot an A-list celebrity here. While you keep an eye out, you should try an Il Cantinori classic, grilled breaded squid.

Da Marino

220 W. 49th St.,
212-541-6601
When Carrie and Mr. Big decide to give it another try in the second season, they visit this Italian restaurant, where Mr. Big serenades her. It's also a favorite restaurant of Chris Noth (Mr. Big) in real life. Make a request to the piano man and he just might grant it. Foodwise, go for one of the pastas: Penne pasta in a pink vodka sauce is a favorite.

Tao

42 E. 58th St.,
212-888-2288
Carrie is on an awkward (and unplanned) double date with a jazz musician, Mr. Big and a coke-snorting model at this Asian fusion restaurant. The date is bizarre, but the surroundings are great, with the big Buddha waterfall in the back. Hopefully you will be more fortunate at Tao thanks to the giant fortune cookie with fruit and ice cream. It comes with hilarious fortunes we don't want to spoil here.

Balthazar

80 Spring St.,
212-965-1414
Carrie and Samantha are having a hard time getting a table at this French restaurant, even though — as Samantha phrases it — they're "kind of somebody." In the end they get one, because Carrie gives the hostess a much-needed tampon in the bathroom. This place is popular, and the food here is noteworthy — especially the steak and the chicken. The loud and fun ambience contribute to a memorable experience.

Buddakan

75 Ninth Ave.,
212-989-6699
In the first (and unfortunately not the only) "Sex and the City" movie Carrie and Mr. Big host an unforgettable rehearsal dinner before their wedding at this Chinese restaurant. Things get weird between them, but it's definitely not because of the food. Order several dishes for the table and make sure your list includes the lobster fried rice and the sweet and crispy jumbo shrimps.

LASSE EMIL KRISTIANSEN
letters@metro.us

Party. Feel like a celeb at these red carpet-worthy Oscar soirees

Did your Oscars invite get lost in the mail? That's too bad, but who needs Hollywood anyway? Watch the awards at one of these local shindigs instead.

The Windsor

234 W. Fourth St.,
212-206-1208 and 420 Park Ave., 646-380-5301
The sports bars will change the channels so you can watch the Oscars instead. The red carpet coverage starts at 6 p.m. Sip a complimentary glass of prosecco and cast your vote for the winners on the provided ballot.

SingL

132 Fourth Ave.,
212-432-1324
Get there at 7 and stay for the whole thing — you can win prizes if you get the most correct predictions of the night's outcomes. The regular menu will be served, but in addition to that they've come up with best-picture-nominated cocktails. How about a Green Jasmine or a Dallas Imbiber's Club? Matthew McConaughey would be proud!

SingL's chic setting makes it perfect for an Oscar party. / COURTESY OF SINGL

Where the Academy celebrates

Daniel

60 E 65th St.,
212-288-0033
This is the only official Oscar party on the East Coast, and unfortunately you're not invited. Sorry! It's just for the local members of the Academy. Maybe you can get a quick glimpse of the A-listers as Daniel rolls out the red carpet for this exclusive event.

121 Fulton Street

121 Fulton St.,
646-545-6647
There are 40 flat-screens, so you won't be hunched over your neighbor to catch the speeches. Guests get a free glass of Champagne and a chance at the Oscar pool, with the top three winners scoring a gift card to the restaurant.

Hudson Common

356 W 58th St.,
212-554-6217
"I would like another American Hustle Vodka Tonic" is what we envision you'll say the most here. Win prizes if you predict the right winners, and party like a movie star to the tunes of DJ Vikas.

Brooklyn Winery

213 N. Eighth St.,
347-763-1506
Brooklyn Winery is making the Oscars Night special with The Paparazzi. Don't worry; it's not the actual paparazzi, just a gin and sparkling wine cocktail with St-Germain. Arrive at 7 — it's first come, first served.

KTCHN

508 W. 42nd St.,
212-868-2999
You may not be walking the red carpet, but you should still don your finest for this party, which is giving out best-dressed prizes. If you're not the best dresser, are you the best guesser? Predict the winners and get prizes. There's also free popcorn and cheeky Oscar trophies. **LASSE EMIL KRISTIANSEN**

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481 Eighth Ave.
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www.nycbm.com
Mike Carbo brings his famed comic book convention to the New Yorker Hotel with more than 100 vendors featuring not only comic books, but also toys, collectibles and related fun. An area dubbed "Artist Alley" will feature special guests like Brian O'Halloran (you know, Dante "I'm not even supposed to be here today" from "Clerks"), and wrestling legends Sgt. Slaughter and Rowdy Roddy Piper. Buy and sell comics and score some autographs.

FOOD & DRINK

ChocoBrewvana: The Chocolicious Beer Dinner

Thursday, 6:30 p.m.
508 Gastrobrewery,
508 Greenwich St.
$80, 212-219-2444
www.508nyc.com
If the idea of chocolate and beer for dinner doesn't put a smile on your face then surely nothing will. But we know it does, and that's why 508 GastroBrewery is partnering up with chocolate critic and The Chocolate Life founder Clay Gordon for a six-course meal, where each dish incorporates chocolate into its recipe and is paired with a specific house-made craft beer.

NYC Vegetarian Food Festival

Saturday-March 2
The Metropolitan Pavilion,
125 W. 18th St. , $30-$50
http://nycvegfoodfest.com
Who needs meat anyway? Sample bites from vegetarian vendors and take in lectures by doctors, nutritionists, vegan athletes and more. The lineup also promises stand-up comedy — we're thinking no animals will be harmed in the telling of those jokes.

KIDS

Kids Food Festival

Saturday-March 2, 10 a.m.
Bank of America Winter Village at Bryant Park,
42nd St. at Sixth Ave.
Free, 718-406-7506
www.kidsfoodfestival.com
Fight childhood obesity while learning about the benefits of a balanced diet, sampling food and taking part in fun activities. Buy $25 tickets to participate in different seminars like Cupcake Creations with Carlo's Bakery, or hit up the Kids Food Festival Main Stage for free events like granola-making, a sampling of "funny foods" and yoga. Ronald McDonald is basically the devil in clown shoes and make-up — don't let your kids be fooled.

PARTY

The Johnny Cash 82nd Birthday Bash

Friday-Saturday, 8 p.m.
The Bell House,
149 Seventh St., Gowanus
$15-$20, 718-643-6510
www.thebellhouseny.com
In what would've been Johnny Cash's 82nd year, celebrate the Man in Black with two days of music, booze and film. Alex Battles and the Whiskey Rebellion perform some classic Cash favorites and archivist Clinton McClung shares some film clips. DJs will be spinning, bartenders will be slinging and you'll be walking the line.

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The Man in Black might be gone, but he will never be forgotten. / GETTY IMAGES

COMEDY

Carolines Comedy Madness Stand-Up Competition

March 4, 11, 18, 25 & Apr. 1, 7 p.m.
Carolines On Broadway, 1626 Broadway; $15 + two-drink minimum, 212-757-4100; www.carolines.com
Sixty-four comedians go head-to-head to see whose jokes are funny enough to land them a gig at Carolines, a spot in the 2014 New York Comedy Festival and some cash. The first night, all 64 funny (or not-so-funny) acts will perform minute-long stand-up sets and only 32 will advance. Each week the rules will change and the competition will get cut in half until it's down to the Final Four.

Stars like Jerry Seinfeld, Louis CK and Marlon Wayans (pictured) have performed at Carolines. Are you next? / COURTESY OF CAROLINES ON BROADWAY

TALKS

The Soundtrack Series — Music on TV: Theme Songs & Jingles

Thursday, 7 p.m.
The Gallery at LPR (Le Poisson Rouge), 158 Bleecker St.
$5-$8, 212-505-3474
www.lepoissonrouge.com
For the rest of your life, "Thank you for being a friend" will always be more than a Hallmark greeting card — it'll be "The Golden Girls" song on NBC. Catch this storytelling series, hosted by Dana Rossi, as writers and performers share stories about TV themes and commercial jingles that have become intertwined with their lives in some way. Really hoping someone has an "It's Velveeta vs. Cheddar" story.

PARTY

NYC's Eighth Annual Mardi Gras Party: F at Friday

Friday, 9 p.m.
Angel Orensanz Foundation,
172 Norfolk St.
$20-$90, 212-529-7194
www.nolita.us
Since New Orleans is kind of a long walk from here, Fat Friday brings Mardi Gras to Manhattan. For one night only, in true Bourbon Street style, throw some beads, eat some jambalaya and stomp your feet to some traditional Cajun music. On the roster are Brother Joscephus & The Love Revolution, Reverend Billy and the Stop Shopping Choir and DJ Douggie Style. Proceeds benefit New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation, The Roots of Music and FIGMENT.

TALKS

GETTY IMAGES

One-On-One: 826NYC 10th Anniversary Chat Spectacular

March 5, 7:30 p.m.
Town Hall,
123 W. 43rd St.
$40-$250
www.metropolitanpresents.com
826NYC celebrates 10 years of providing free literacy and writing programs for students ages 6-18, with a night of conversation between some of the most distinguished New York-based artists, musicians and performers. Hear from documentary filmmaker Ken Burns, Roots drummer ?uestlove, Portlandia's Fred Armisen and more.

FILM

Our Vinyl Weighs a Ton + Q&A W/ Peanut Butter Wolf

March 2, 7 p.m.
indieScreen,
289 Kent Ave.,
Williamsburg
$12, 347-227-8030
www.indiescreen.us
Have a sneak peek at Jeff Broadway's documentary about L.A.-based record label Stones Throw Records. The film takes viewers behind the scenes of the avant-garde hip-hop label, featuring never-before-seen concert footage and interviews with Kanye West, Snoop Dogg, Mike D (of The Beastie Boys) and other artists who have helped to shape Stones Throw. Founder Peanut Butter Wolf will be on hand for a question and answer session.

JAY HONSTETTER

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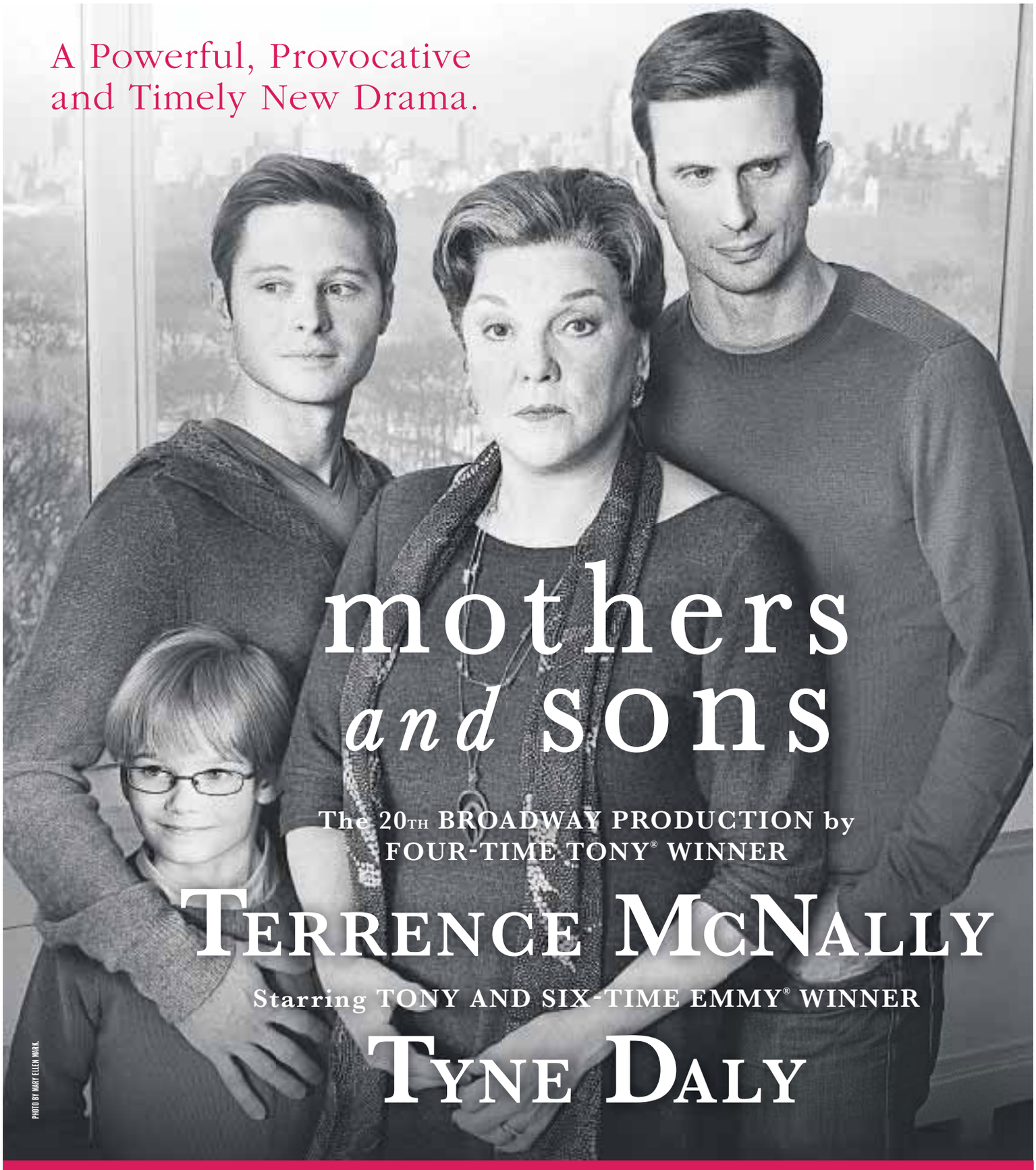
Live on Broadway



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MothersandSonsBroadway.com | #MothersAndSons

Special advertorial section

'Mothers and Sons' is a must-see this season

Tyne Daly previously won a Tony Award for Best Performance by a Leading Actress in a Musical for "Gypsy: A Musical Fable" in 1989. / PROVIDED

Generations collide as one mother learns to love the life her son might have led.

"Mothers and Sons," the 20th Broadway production by four-time Tony Award winner Terrence McNally, is a timely and provocative new play that explores our evolving understanding of family in today's world.

By turns funny and powerful, "Mothers and Sons" portrays a woman who pays an unexpected visit to the New York apartment of her late son's partner, who is now married to another man and has a young son. Challenged to face how society has changed around her, the mother revisits the past and begins to see the life her son might have had.

"Mothers and Sons" stars Tony Award and six-time Emmy Award winner Tyne Daly ("Gypsy," "Master Class," "Cagney & Lacey") alongside co-stars Frederick Weller ("In Plain Sight," "Glengarry Glen Ross"), Bobby Steggert ("Big Fish," "Ragtime") and Grayson Taylor. Tony Award nominee Sheryl Kaller directs.

Special advertorial section

'MAMMA MIA!' This fun-filled family musical brings ABBA hits to life

"Take a Chance" on the wildly amusing gal pal trio in "MAMMA MIA!" / JOAN MARCUS

Now celebrating 13 smash hit years, "MAMMA MIA!" is the 10th longest-running show in Broadway history and one of only five musicals to have run for more than 10 years on the Great White Way. Acclaimed by the Associated Press as "quite simply, a phenomenon," "MAMMA MIA!" continues its success around the world, having been seen by more than 54 million people in 38 productions in 14 languages in more than 400 cities.

Inspired by the storytelling magic of ABBA's timeless songs and directed by Phyllida Lloyd, "MAMMA MIA!" is Judy Craymer's vision of Catherine Johnson's sunny, funny tale of family and friendship unfolding on a tiny Greek island. On the eve of her wedding, a daughter's quest to discover the identity of her father brings three men from her mother's past back to the island they visited 20 years ago. Songs including "Dancing Queen," "The Winner Takes It All," "Money, Money, Money" and "Take a Chance on Me" are featured in this feel-good night of fun and laughter.

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John Douglas Thompson
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by Terry Teachout directed by Gordon Edelstein

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-Huffington Post

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Special advertorial section

'Bikeman.' One journalist's true story of surviving 9/11 with a front-row seat

Emmy Award-winning reporter Thomas F. Flynn's critically acclaimed book has been adapted for the stage in a beautiful and exciting production that has become the most anticipated new play of the season. Experience this amazing true story for yourself. "Bikeman" proudly supports and donates a portion of all ticket sales to the 9/11 Memorial. Learn more at Bikeman911.com.

This is a ride you'll never forget. / CAROL ROSEGG

'Satchmo.' You've never known the man or heard his music quite like this

John Douglas Thompson is a rivetingly real Louis Armstrong. / T. CHARLES ERIKSON

"Satchmo at the Waldorf" is an absorbing and uplifting new play about the music, struggles and triumphs of Louis Armstrong, the man who invented jazz. "Tour de force would be an understatement!" raves the Boston Globe of "Satchmo"'s leading man, Obie and Lucille Lortel Award winner John Douglas Thompson. This is Armstrong as you've never seen him: hilarious, moving and breathtakingly human.

'iLUMINATE.' Open your eyes to the most fun you'll ever have in the dark!

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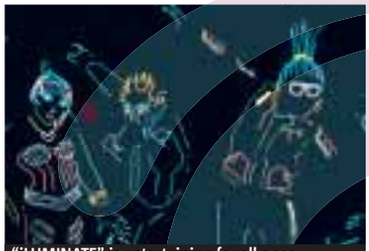


"iLUMINATE" is entertaining for all ages. CAROL ROSEGG

'50 Shades.' The best-selling book is onstage in a laugh-out-loud parody

Are you feeling naughty? / MATTHEW MURRAY

After a sold-out smash hit tour of the U.S. and Canada, "50 SHADES! THE MUSICAL" — the original parody — is coming to the heart of Broadway. Based on the bestselling novels, this sexy, hilarious romp is a wild evening of comedy for both women and men, with plenty of BDSM (Best Damn Songs and Music).

Special advertorial section

You'll rock out at 'STOMP'

Everything on hand is an instrument. / STEVE MCNICHOLAS

This eclectic show is one that more than lives up to the hype.

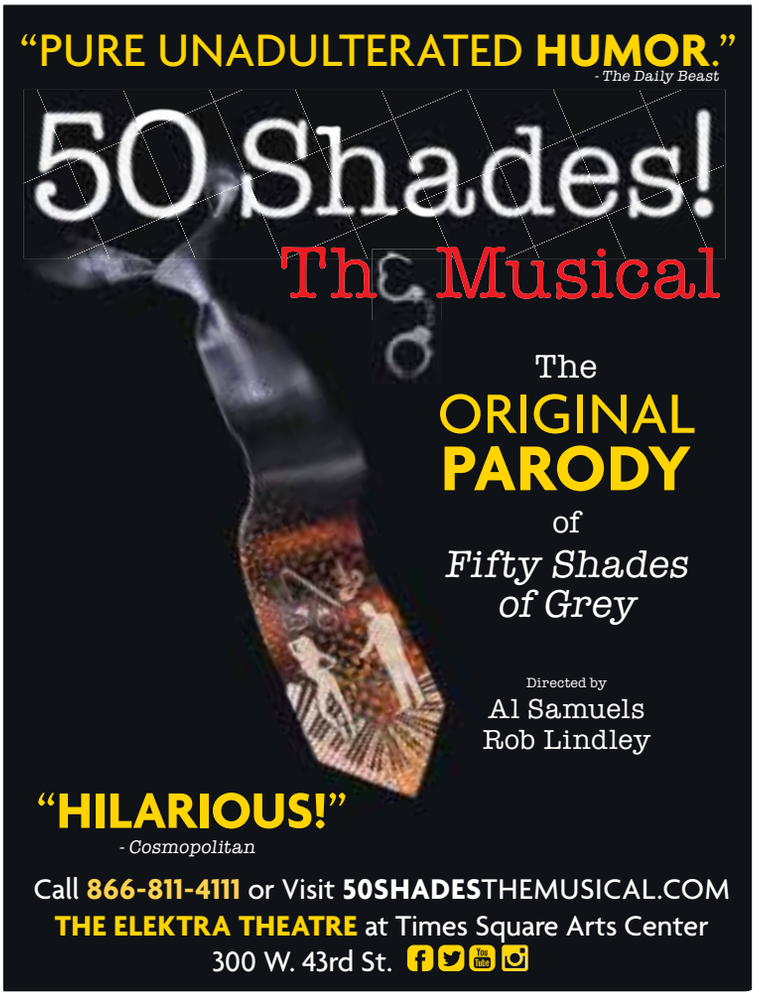
Matchboxes, brooms, garbage cans, lighters and more fill the stage with energizing beats at "STOMP," the inventive and invigorating stage show that's dance, music and comedy blended together in one electrifying rhythm. A New York icon since 1994, critics call "STOMP" "dazzling," "ingenious" and "as crisp and exuberant as if it opened yesterday."

'Bubble Show' is effervescent

We lost count, but "gazillion" looks about right. / FAN YANG

Seeking entertainment for the whole family? Look no further.

"The Gazillion Bubble Show" is an "unbubblievable" extravaganza for everyone, unlike anything you've ever seen before. Adults and children of all ages are sure to be enchanted. You'll have to experience it to believe it!



Horoscope

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Don't let uncertainty stop you from making necessary changes. Personal growth requires you to take one step at a time.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. You will become involved in an interesting new relationship. Unusual rewards will come your way as a result of offering your services to a worthy cause.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. By concentrating on love and the fun things in life, you will feel good about your future. Don't let negative people drag you down.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. Opportunities are coming your way. Indecisiveness will end up being costly. Relentless pursuit of your goals will get results.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. You will make substantial progress if you listen to advice given to you. With the relevant information, you will be able to take control.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Money matters will weigh heavily on your mind. Pay off debts and remind others of what they owe you. You will relax once you have a clean slate.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. By making some inexpensive and simple changes around the home, you can reduce your stress and calm your nerves.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. Don't feel as if life is passing you by. Find an activity that motivates you to participate. Being active will renew your energy.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Someone may be withholding information. Ask direct questions that will reveal hidden secrets. Once that is determined, an answer will be found.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Attend meetings or social gatherings conducive to learning valuable information about something you aspire to.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan 20. Positive changes lie ahead. Discuss your future and your dreams with your loved ones. Now is the time to seal contracts.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb 18. You will be overwhelmed by the tasks expected of you. Discipline and courage will help you live up to your obligations.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Sudoku: Easy and hard

8						1		
5			8			7		
7		6	9	1		2		
			1	3	8	6		
		5		6		8		
		4	5	2	9			
		8		9	6	4		7
		1			7			3
		2						8

		7			9	6	3	
9				3	8	4		
4			6			5		
				1				4
5		1				8		3
6				7				
		6			3			9
		9	7	5				6
	7	4	9			3		

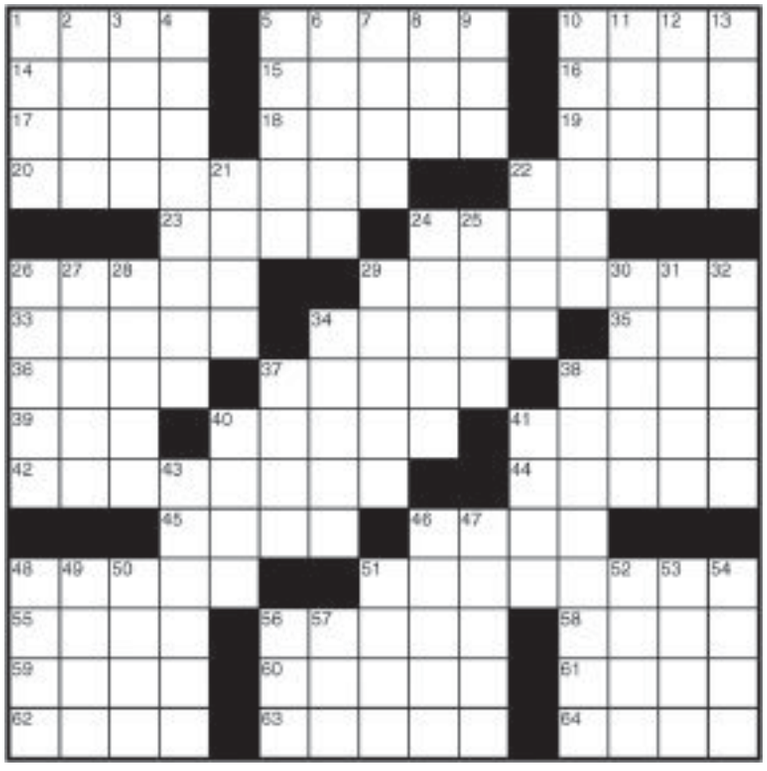
How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Crossword

Across
1 Play a round
5 Intended
10 Cavity detector (hyph.)
14 Diva's tune
15 — to the teeth
16 Jean Auel heroine
17 Graceful wrap
18 Oxygen producers
19 Do perfectly
20 Algae
22 Florentine poet
23 Wedding cake section
24 "— be surprised!"
26 Tomato jelly
29 Burly
33 Reflect
34 Pleasure craft
35 Road hazard
36 Metallic sound
37 Muslim garment
38 Send packing
39 Devotee
40 Cornball
41 Ruling group
42 Spicy sausages
44 Auto-racing family
45 Prolific auth.
46 Santa —, Calif.
48 Minimum
51 Spectacular orchid
55 Foot part
56 Railroad switch
58 Outback mineral
59 Pocket jingler
60 Combine
61 Roman emperor
62 Forest ruminant
63 Earth pigment
64 Kind of pool

Down
1 Pant
2 Uttered
3 Turkish currency
4 Swooning
5 Not glossy
6 Foul-up
7 "You said it!"
8 Before marriage
9 Gridiron stats
10 Coleridge setting
11 Mr. Seacrest
12 Touched down
13 Sturdy lock
21 Recoil
22 Tape of a thousand uses
24 Icky
25 Labor Dept. division
26 Upper room
27 — kebab
28 Tonto's Scout, for one
29 Female horses
30 Pride members
31 Keen
32 Pave over
34 Klondike territory
37 A real clown
38 Skedaddle (2 wds.)
40 Insinuate
41 Unbiased
43 Serving of bacon
46 Grazing land
47 Web-footed mammal
48 "Shane" star
49 Old barge canal
50 Pinnacle
51 Sidewalk's edge
52 Touche provoker
53 Knitter's supply
54 Sunblock additive
56 Dallas sch.
57 Haw's partner

Yesterday's answer



Letters

Even if we didn't start the fire, there's still a fire

Re: 'Global warming is a laughing matter' (Metro, Feb. 26) Letter writer Kevin Metz does an excellent job of parroting the self-serving wishful thinking the fossil fuel energy industries seem to be selling.

To illustrate their logic, imagine being a neighbor of Mr. Metz, and you notice his home is on fire. Being concerned, you alert him, "Mr. Metz, your home is on fire!"

Mr. Metz: "No, it is not."

Neighbor: "Yes it is. Look at the smoke and flames."

Mr. Metz: "Well, maybe, but it's not my fault."

Neighbor: "Regardless, we should call the fire department."

Mr. Metz: "That would be a waste of public resources, especially since I am sure it won't be that bad."

Neighbor: "But the fire could spread through the neighborhood if we don't call 911 soon!"

Mr. Metz: "Your hysteria makes me laugh."

MARK MACMILLAN, VIA EMAIL

Time to say 'so long, Kabul'

Come on, people! Come on, voters all across America who still have little bit of influence over our elected officials! Isn't it time to demand we leave the nation that Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary Colin Powell and friends said we should enter several months after Sept. 11 — Afghanistan — to combat terrorism? My God! It has been 13 years.

MICHAEL RAGSDALE, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

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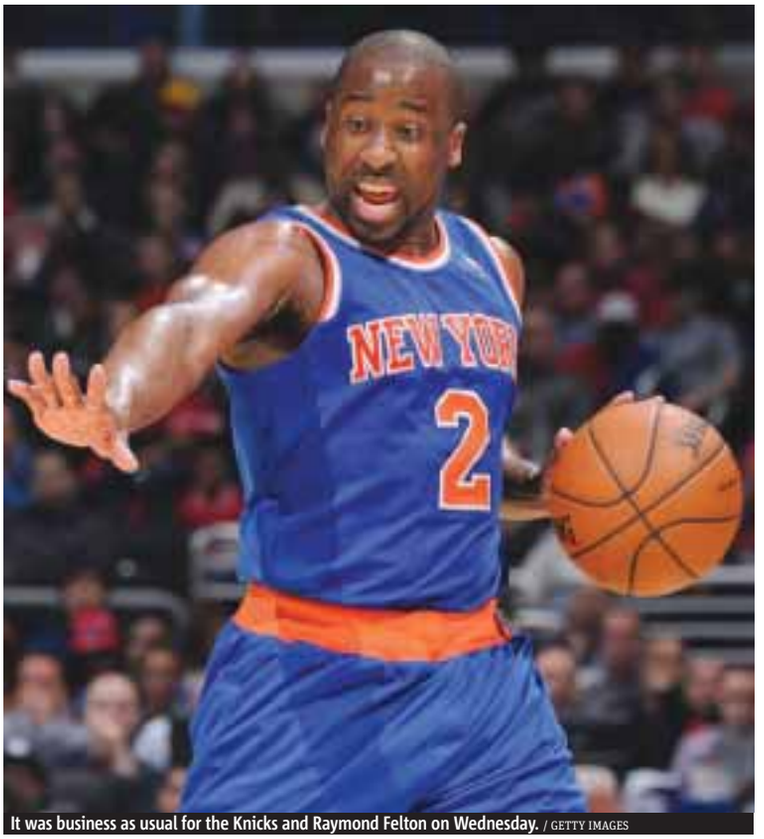
Knicks move on with Felton likely to start

NBA. The point guard refused to answer questions about his arrest for gun charges on Tuesday.


It was business as usual for the Knicks and Raymond Felton on Wednesday. / GETTY IMAGES

Knicks point guard Raymond Felton may be in hot water with the New York legal system, but the only thing he's concerning himself with right now is the Miami Heat.

Felton, who was arrested early Tuesday morning on felony gun possession charges and arraigned in Manhattan before being released on $25,000 bail, addressed the media throng following Wednesday's practice session, but declined to discuss anything about his legal issues.

"I want to start off by saying thank you to my teammates, thank you to the fans, to my family, to my friends [and] everybody for their support in this situation. Now, as far as speaking about what's going on off the court with me, it will be a 'no comment' speaking on that," Felton said, declining to answer any questions. "I'm here to concentrate on this team, finish this season out with the New York Knicks and see what happens. … Just trying to make it to the playoffs."

Head coach Mike Woodson went a similar route, declining to get into the specifics about Felton's off-court plight. Woodson did say he was planning to play Felton as usual against the Heat on Thursday night.

"I don't know a whole lot about what happened, the situation he's going through. When things creep in like this, it's a surprise, but we got to get through it. I don't know the legal side and the seriousness of it, though," Woodson said. "But at the end of the day he's a part of the New York Knick family, and I'm going to support him and try to get him back on track."

Felton was seen on the practice floor on Wednesday looking as if it was business as usual, running the pick-and-roll with center Tyson Chandler and not looking the worse for wear.

"He seemed very focused, very attentive to what was going on as far as our game plan for Miami," Chandler said. "Like I said, if it wasn't for all the media [at practice], I wouldn't know what was going on."

TONY WILLIAMS
sports@metro.us

Headband gate

Knicks guard J.R. Smith seems to consistently be doing silly things to tempt suspension. The latest was slapping the headband of Vince Carter in Monday's game.

- "What's the drama? It was just funny to me," Carter said. "J.R.'s a good friend."
- The league hasn't decided on suspension.

CARTER LAUGHED OFF THE INCIDENT WITH SMITH. GETTY IMAGES

Back on point

SHAUN LIVINGSTON GETTY IMAGES

Livingston makes surprising return

While the team across town deals with their own point guard issues, the Nets will be adding some help at the position.

Shaun Livingston, who injured his tailbone against the Warriors, was back in the lineup for Brooklyn last night.

Livingston has been a critical piece of the Nets team. He's averaging 7.7 points and 3.1 assists per game. METRO

3 SPORTS

Good start

Ellsbury strong in debut

The Yankees got their official Grapefruit League season underway Wednesday and new signings Jacoby Ellsbury and Brian McCann both made positive first impressions in a 6-5 loss to Pittsburgh. Ellsbury reached base three times and scored two runs, while McCann had a hit and an RBI. Ivan Nova allowed two runs on two hits in 1 1/3 innings.

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NBA FANTASY SEASON NOW COMING TO A 'HEAD'

The nightmare for every fantasy hoops owner is to turn into a Charles Barkley, Karl Malone, Patrick Ewing or Allen Iverson. A great player that put up monster stats but never kissed the ring.

In today's almost exclusive head-to-head fantasy sports climate, the five-month regular-season grind means very little if we choke in the playoffs. That means shaping your roster to fit the home-stretch is the priority.

Maxing out

Far too often, head-to-head hoops matchups are decided by raw games played in a given week. Al Jefferson for two games or Marcin Gortat for four? Exactly. We're not going to dump our studs, but we are going to bolster the bottom of our roster with guys operating on better schedules. Over the final four weeks of the regular season, the Nets, Heat, Hawks, Pacers and Raptors all play a healthy 15 or 16 games. The Warriors and Clippers play a meager 12. The Blazers (March 24) and Bucks (March 10) have rare five-game weeks coming up. The Clippers and Knicks each have two-game weeks at the worst possible time: April 8.

Beware of rest

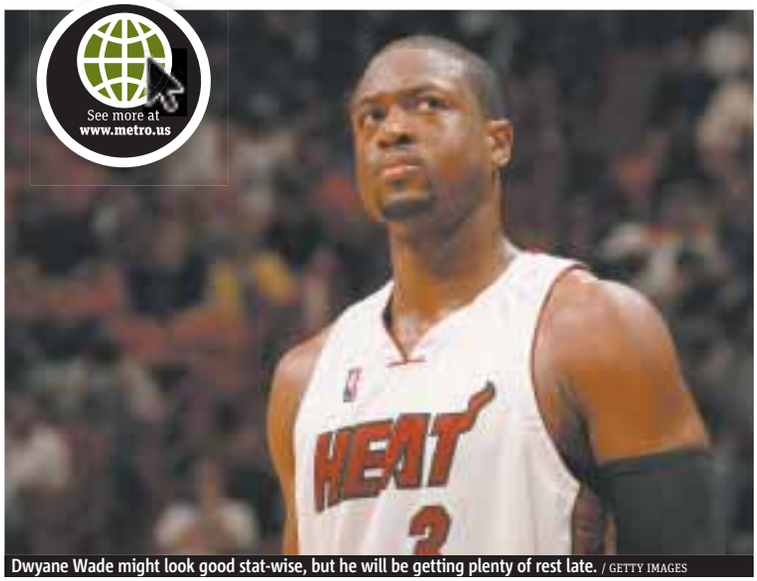
Unfortunately, NBA coaches don't have fantasy owners in mind over the final couple weeks of the regular season. They're selfishly worried about having fresh players for the playoffs. Therefore, we can predict a ton of DNP-CDs — that's "did not play, coach's decision" — in the fantasy playoffs, especially from aging veterans. Dwyane Wade sat out nine of the final 14 games last year and eight of the final 16 in 2011-12. Tim Duncan was held out four times over the last two weeks in 2012. Know the rotations and have backup plans in place.

Category hunt

Throughout the regular season, most of us simply try to find the best players and see how the categories shake out. In the playoffs, we need to be more assertive. Whether we win 9-0 or 5-4 doesn't matter, so focusing all our energy on just five categories is optimal. Identify the five statistics you're going after before the playoffs and build the bottom third of your roster from there. If you can't win blocks and rebounds but do have a chance in 3-pointers and assists, there is little reason to carry Roy Hibbert over Kendall Marshall.

NFL news

Packers coach Mike McCarthy raved about Jarrett Boykin at the combine. It means free agent James Jones is gone, and Boykin is going to be the No. 3 wide receiver.



Dwyane Wade might look good stat-wise, but he will be getting plenty of rest late. / GETTY IMAGES

MLB sleepers

Get these guys on your late-round draft radar:

- **Scott Kazmir, SP, A's** — A 29-year-old sleeper is rare, but Kazmir gets a huge bump as he goes to Oakland's pitcher-friendly confines.
- **Oswaldo Arcia, OF, Twins** — If he can hit lefties, the 22-year-old will have a chance to be an everyday run producer.

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Early issues

Mets' Niese sent back to New York for shoulder MRI

Injury issues are hitting very early for the Mets this spring.

Jonathan Niese, the presumed Opening Day starter, is returning to New York for an MRI on his left throwing shoulder after telling the team he felt pain.

"I wanted to keep it quiet. It's just a precautionary thing to make sure it's not worse from last year," Niese told ESPN. "I just want peace of mind."

Niese, 27, missed almost two months last season with a partially torn rotator cuff. But he returned in August and pitched 10 times without issue to close out the season. He was 3-6 with a 4.32 ERA in 14 starts before the injury and 5-2 with a 3.00 ERAand 56 strikeouts in 66 innings after the DL stint.

NIESE HAS WON 32 GAMES THE LAST THREE SEASONS.
GETTY IMAGES

"Batting practice started and he felt fine," manager Terry Collins told reporters in camp. "And then he threw his second 20 pitches the other day. He just said at the end of it, 'Geez, my arm's just dead. Like, it's dead.'"

Niese was signed to a five-year, $25 million extension at the start of the 2012 season. The deal includes a team option for $10 million in 2017 and $11 million in 2018.

The Mets are already without Matt Harvey for the season after Tommy John surgery. Bartolo Colon, Dillon Gee and Zack Wheeler are penciled into the rotation.

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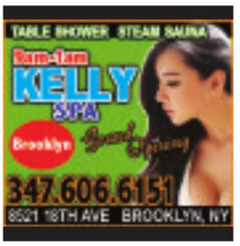

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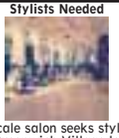

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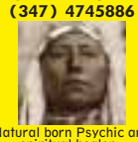

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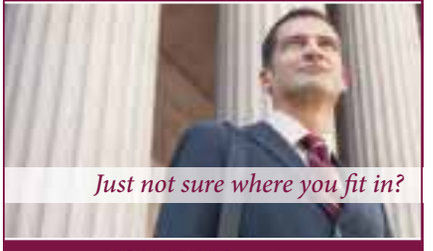

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